

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, EFIN, CA, CU

SUBJECT: CANADIAN TRADE MISSION WINDS UP CUBA VISIT

REF: OTTAWA 1064

1. IN SPECIAL ARTICLES FOR THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL
MARCH 22 AND 24, LIONEL MARTIN REPORTS, I.A.:

BEGIN VERBATIM TEXT: CASTRO TOLD REPORTERS
AT A RECEPTION THURSDAY FOR CANADIAN TRADE
MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE THAT CUBA HAD
"EXEMPLARY" RELATIONS WITH CANADA.
"WE ARE INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING OUR COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS WITH CANADA, SINCE CANADA BUYS CUBAN
PRODUCTS AND IT IS ONLY FAIR THE WE BUY CANADIA
PRODUCTS."

CASTRO SAID THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION IN
TENSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA
ALTHOUGH "IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THERE STILL HAS
NOT BEEN MUCH PROGRESS."

"BUT WE CONSIDER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY)
KISSINGER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON CUBA
POSITIVE."

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CUBA WLD NOT ENTER NEGOTIATIONS FOR
NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON UNTIL THE
UNITED STATES LIFTS ITS "UNILATERAL AND COERCIVE"
EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA, CASTRO SAID.
CUBA, HE SAID, HAS NEVER IMPOSED AND EMBARGO
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES--"IF AT ANY TIME THEY
NEED SUGAR, WE ARE READY TO SELL IT TO THEM"
ASKED WHETHER CUBA WANTS U.S. RECOGNITION, HE
REPLIED:

"WE ARE REALLY NO IMPATIENT ABOUT IT. SOONER
OR LATER IT WILL HAPPEN. WHEN IT DOES WE WILL
CONSIDER IT A POSITIVE EVENT." END VERBATIM TEXT.

2. MARTINFURTHER REPORTS THAT DURING GILLEPIE'S
FIVE DAYS IN CUBA, HE MET FIDEL CASTRO, PRESIDENT
OSVALDO DORTICOS, DEPUTY PREMIER CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ
AND TOP CUBAN INDUSTRY AND TRADE OFFICIALS. GILLESPIE
REPORTEDLY INVITED RODRIGUEZ TO CANADA FOR A
MEETING OF A JOINT CUBAN/CANADIAN TRADE COMISSION;
AND CASTRO REPEATED AND EARLIER INVITATION TO PRIME
MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU TO VISIT CUBA.

3. SOME OF THE 26 CANADIAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES
ACCOMPANYING GILLESPIE REPORTED FIRM SALES. GILLESPIE
ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON AN AIR AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BEGIN MAY 19 (OTTAWA 4138,
DECEMBER 20, 1974).

4. PRESS ARTICLES BEING AIR POUCHED EUR/CAN - BROWN.
PORTER

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